

# Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

2842 Main Street #259, Glastonbury, CT 06033 • Phone (860) 533-1163 • Fax (860) 533-1165

[www.chcca.net](http://www.chcca.net)

MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



## TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OPPOSING

### HB-6385, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION

BEFORE THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

2011

**PRESIDENT**  
Eric D'Eramo  
ENCON  
1265 Woodend Road  
Stratford, CT 06410  
(203) 375-5228

**PRESIDENT ELECT**  
Seamus Warakowski  
Tri City Heating & Cooling  
362 New Haven Avenue  
Milford, CT 06460  
(203) 874-5228

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Vacancy

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Joseph DeFusco  
Custom Mechanical Services  
92 Jeanette Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
(860) 589-5471

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Jennifer Jennings

#### DIRECTORS

Robert Besaw  
Edgerton, Inc.  
(203) 268-6279

Jim Chard  
F.J. Chard & Son  
(860) 675-8076

Gary Corliss  
Control Aire Supply  
(800) 443-2473

Hank Cullinane  
Clover Corp.  
(860) 528-0081

Jeff Leone  
Air Temp Mechanical  
(860) 953-8888

Bryan Mackenzie  
R & B Refrigeration  
(203) 453-6831

Steve Szypulski  
The Star Supply Co.  
(203) 772-2240

#### LOBBYISTS

Gara & Markowski, LLC  
[www.gmlobbying.com](http://www.gmlobbying.com)

Elizabeth Gara  
Andrew Markowski

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments opposing HB-6385, An Act Implementing The Budget Recommendations Of The Governor Concerning Education:

Members of the heating and cooling industry strongly oppose sections 16 through 18 and others in this legislation which would transfer the operations for the regional vocational-technical high school system from its current place in the Department of Education to the local and regional boards of education for the school districts in which a regional vocational-technical school is located. Passage of this legislation is unnecessary, could complicate oversight and administration of our state's valuable technical high schools, and ultimately damage an educational system that has provided exceptional service to students, HVAC employers, and residents throughout the state.

CHCC opposes this initiative, which we believe would weaken the state's ability to attract and retain students to pursue careers in the skilled trades, including heating, piping, and cooling work. Over the years, CHCC has developed an invaluable working relationship with the technical high school system and we believe that our industry and the students have benefited from this relationship. Many of our current contractors and their apprentices are graduates of the state's technical high school system. CHCC has always believed in "giving back". CHCC maintains a "HVAC wish list", whereby we try to pair the needs for various pieces of the equipment or supplies within the technical high schools to our contractors who may be able to donate such. CHCC also works to provide annual scholarships to students pursuing the heating and cooling trade in the technical high school system. These scholarships are designed to enhance the educational and workforce opportunities available to the students of Connecticut while providing incentive to stay in the trade. These are just some examples of how the industry has worked to prop up and support the technical high school system in Connecticut because we believe that there is no better education system for students who wish to enter the skilled trades. Likewise, CHCC believes that the state should continue to support this system to the fullest extent, in order to prevent deterioration and future problems with funding and administration which will inevitably result should the proposals in this bill pass.

CHCC thanks the Committee for its consideration of our comments and urges rejection of the proposals contained in HB-6385 transferring operations of the state's vocational-technical high school system to local school districts.

*CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.*